

Broward County Municipal Marine Summit
Meeting Summary
Thursday – February 20, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Municipal Marine Summit meeting was called to order by Broward County Marine Advisory Committee Liaison Jay Sanford at the Hollywood Culture & Community Center located at 1301 S ocean Drive Hollywood, Florida at 7:00pm.

II. WELCOME

Mr. Sanford introduced the Chair of the Hollywood Marine Advisory Board, Juan Mendoza. Chair Mendoza welcomed all attendees and expressed that the municipal Marine Summit is an informative, educational, and inspiring event. Mr. Sanford introduced Allan Burrows, Chair of the Broward Marine Advisory Committee. Chair Burrows welcomed all attendees and noted that this is the 5th Summit. He continued that these events are an important and productive tool to enable committees to work together. Chair Burrows thanked the City of Hollywood for hosting the event. Mr. Sanford introduced Linda Briggs Thompson, Broward County Parks and Recreation Environmental Program Manager and Summit Facilitator. Facilitator Briggs Thompson explained the Summit format.

III. INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

Facilitator Briggs Thompson asked that all boards and committees introduce their members and guests. Broward County Marine Advisory Committee, Dania Beach Marine Advisory Board, Deerfield Beach Marine Advisory Board, Fort Lauderdale Marine Advisory Board, Hollywood Marine advisory Board, Hollywood Marine Advisory Board, Lighthouse Point Advisory Board, and Pompano Beach Marine Advisory Board members introduced themselves and their guests.

IV. MARINE ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Broward County Marine Advisory Committee

Chair Burrows stated that the Broward County Marine Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended over \$1.1 million in Broward Boater Improvement Program (BBIP) grants and almost \$850 thousand in Enhanced Marine Law Enforcement Grant (EMLEG) funds on behalf of Broward County. The EMLEG funding provided over 16,000 hours of marine law enforcement patrol all over Broward County. Chair Burrows noted that in cooperation with the Pompano Beach Power Squadron, they have produced the Broward Boating Safety Guide. Mr. Burrows also noted that at the Pompano Beach / Lighthouse Point Nautical Flea Market, a survey was conducted of registered boaters that helps provide direction to the Committee for fund use.

Dania Beach Marine Advisory Board

The Dania Beach Advisory Board explained that there is a new city manager and staff, so the City is currently in a transition period. The Dania Beach Advisory Board continued that each commissioner has two appointees on the Board, and there is now a requirement in place that at least one must have marine related experience.

Deerfield Beach Advisory Board

The Deerfield Beach Advisory Board stated that over the last year they have engaged with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) about potentially reducing a speed zone off the Intercoastal waterway. Deerfield Beach Advisory Board continued that they have adopted a storm water utility for the first time and are working on a master plan. Deerfield Beach Advisory Board added that they are unveiling their first ever comprehensive beach management plan.

Fort Lauderdale Marine Advisory Board

The Fort Lauderdale Board discussed 3 projects that were started in 2019 and will have construction beginning in 2020. The Coontie Hatchee lagoon is a \$550,000 project with an ADA accessible beach, paddle board/kayak/canoe launching, and a sustainable mangrove planter which was funded in part by Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). The George English Park boat ramp renovations is a \$950,000 project that will include docks for larger boats funded by FIND and BBIP. The Sweeting Park dock project cost \$200,000 for docks made from sustainable materials and was funded by FIND.

Hollywood Marine Advisory Board

The Hollywood Marine Advisory Board stated they have reimplemented the carboard races which foster community spirit. The Board stated that they continually support waterway cleanup activities. The Board added that they are also researching the possibility of a mooring field in Hollywood North and South Lakes.

Lighthouse Point Marine Advisory Board

The Lighthouse Point Board stated that they just finished the annual Pompano Beach and Lighthouse Point Nautical Flea Market, where attendance was phenomenal. The Board also thanked the Broward County Marine Advisory Board for attending and conducting their boating survey at the event.

V. DISCUSSION OF GLOBAL ISSUES AND BEST PRACTICES

Water Quality – MIASF

Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) discussed water quality in Broward County and noted that their 43rd waterway cleanup is next month. MIASF

continued that the George English location for the cleanup has been removed due to concerns over water quality. MIASF added that they have reached out to the City of Fort Lauderdale to test 6 additional sites before the cleanup event.

Infrastructure, FEC Bridge – FTL, MIASF

MIASF reviewed 4 different alternatives for the FEC Bridge: a low-level bascule bridge, a mid-level bascule bridge, a high-level fixed bridge, and a tunnel. MIASF noted that it will be close to a decade before any project could be completed. The Fort Lauderdale Board noted that they echo MIASF's sentiment that it is important to act on this project. The Board continued that they support the high-level fixed bridge as the best option.

Maintenance Dredging – MIASF, FTL

MIASF noted that the New River is capped on how far it can be dredged at 14 feet due to the tunnel. MIASF noted that FIND did 17 feet dredging on the Intracoastal and the Dania Cutoff, which allows for bigger boats and the boat show. MIASF continued that the 14 feet maintenance dredging needs the cooperation of the City of Fort Lauderdale in order to proceed and will cost the City approximately \$2 million. The Fort Lauderdale Board commented that they are in agreement with MIASF and noted that there is a lot of commerce with bigger boats and this is something that should be focused on. The Fort Lauderdale Board also noted that emergency dredging due to the recent sewage spills should be considered.

New Apprentice Program – MIASF

MIASF commented that they are finishing up with their 3rd season of the Salty Jobs series. MIASF continued that they are starting the first ever marine apprentice program in partnership with the Florida Department of Education and Atlantic Technical College. These classes provide students with the basic knowledge of shipyard skills.

Anchorage & Derelict Vessel Concerns – FTL, BC, HW

The City of Fort Lauderdale stated that until changes are made in Tallahassee where restrictions are made on how long a vessel can be anchored, there is not much the cities can do. The City continued that FWC has 27 steps they go through before they can remove a derelict vessel and the City is trying to mirror their steps. The City has a Code Compliance Magistrate and they are investigating if they are qualified to hear cases on derelict vessels. Until these processes are hashed out, the City has their hands tied.

The Marine Advisory Committee commented that last year they recommended \$150,000 through BBIP for derelict removals to BSO, Fort Lauderdale, and Hollywood. In the last six months, Hollywood has removed seven derelict vessels using money from FIND, BBIP, and FWC.

The Hollywood Board commented that there has been an anchorage concern in Hollywood North and South Lake. There are 36 boats currently anchored in North Lake

and 9 boats anchored in South Lake. The Board stated that they tried to implement a mooring field to control the situation, but are receiving some pushback from residents. The Board has also made recommendations to Tallahassee to designate it as a recreational area, but has not received any traction.

Vessel Burglaries - FTL

The City of Fort Lauderdale commented that they had about \$600,000 worth of Garmin GPS thefts last year in August and September. They noted that there were two arrests, after which the burglaries appeared to stop. There was a multiagency task force in Aventura, and it was discussed that they would contact Garmin on ways to correct their products from being targeted for burglaries.

US 1 Bridge – DB

The Dania Beach Board discussed a safety issue at the US 1 bridge on the Dania Cut Off Canal. The Board described that the traffic is one-way, and boats must yield to the oncoming current. FIND funded dredging, but stopped at the bridge, which increases the current under the bridge. The Board continued that DOT conducted a study on the bridge and 5 alternatives were presented. The Board explained that they found the best option was to be to replace the fenders as they don't meet DOT standards. This option would reduce the flow by 10%.

Sunken/Proper Channel Markers – BC

The Broward County Marine Advisory Committee discussed the pervasive problem of channel markers. The Committee explained that when channel markers are being replaced, they are not being placed in the correct location and old markers are not being removed. The Committee stated that this creates a safety issue and a hazard to navigation. They continued that the Coast Guard and FWC are responsible for markers. It was noted that FWC does have a state-wide marker reporting system in place for people to report damaged/missing channel markers.

Census 2020 - BC, MIASF

The Broward County Marine Advisory Committee informed all attendees that the Census is being conducted this year. They continued that the more people that get counted, the more money the area receives. People who are not tied to a fixed address constitute the largest group of undercounted people, and this includes those that live on boats. The Committee is asking that all municipalities coordinate with the County to go out and count all people that are anchored in their waters.

MISAF commented that California is spending \$180 million to conduct the 2020 census in order to make sure everyone is counted, while Florida is spending under \$5 million. They added that the County is spending around \$300,000.

Speed Zone Revision – DB, DF

The Dania Beach Marine Advisory Board discussed their request for speed zone changes along the Dania Cut Off Canal. The Board stated that they wanted to change the signage from slow speed / minimum wake to idle speed / no wake. The Board commented that there is a safety issue and that idle speed / no wake is also easier to enforce.

The Deerfield Beach Marine Advisory Board stated that they have a two-phase plan due to the congestion near Deerfield Island. The first phase is to repost minimum wake signage. The second phase is to monitor to see how effective it is. If it is still found to present a safety issue, they will then pursue changing the speed zone to a no wake zone.

Marine Patrol – DB

The Dania Beach Marine Advisory Board stated that they have made a request to have a dedicated BSO marine officer for their area. The Board commented that there is currently no dedicated BSO marine officer and that Broward County is 2nd in the state of Florida in boat registrations as well as boat accidents.

Additional Boat Ramps – DB

The Dania Beach Marine Advisory Board explained that more docks and ramps are needed in the City of Dania Beach. The Board presented a piece of land that has potential to be a new boat ramp and has made a recommendation to the City.

Manatee Plan / Slip Allocation – MIASF

MIASF explained that in 2007 there was a manatee protection plan put into place that allocated a certain number of slips in each section of the County. MIASF continued that the slip allocation has been reached in the South section, which is the area below Sunrise Boulevard.

VI. FLORIDA INLAND NAVIGATION DISTRICT

FIND has provided over \$33 million in projects in Broward County. A list of all projects is included in the agenda package. Frank Gernert is the new FIND commissioner for Broward County. MIASF commented that the money FIND distributes is the County's tax dollars, and there was a time that Broward County was contributing more money than they were applying for.

MIASF stated that when dredging the Intercoastal, FIND reached out to utilities to move their lines. MIASF continued that it took two years for FPL to move their lines and they are still waiting for AT&T to move their line.

VII. PRESENTATION CONCERNING FORT LAUDERDALE SEWER AND WATER ISSUES

Mr. Sanford introduced Dr. Nancy Gassman, the assistant director of public works for the City of Fort Lauderdale. Dr. Gassman reviewed the seven recent sewer force main breaks in the City of Fort Lauderdale, which resulted in approximately 101 million gallons of sewage discharged into the marine environment. These breaks were caused by corrosion inside the pipes, saltwater intrusion into the conflict box, and large amounts of rain that put stress on the line.

Dr. Gassman explained whenever there was a waterway impact, aerators were distributed to the area to assist with odor control and wildlife. These areas were also monitored for such things as bacteria to protect public health. Dr. Gassman explained that the City has learned from these breaks and there are plans to create a redundant line, which has been accelerated and funded and will be installed within the next 18 months. Another precaution being taken is that when a pipe breaks, if there is an issue with more than just the broken area, the entire pipe will be replaced. Dr. Gassman also provided an update on subaqueous pipe breaks and noted that they are currently looking at channel marking these pipes to prevent damage from boat anchors. A Tarpon River and George English restoration study has been started and the City hopes to move forward quickly with debris removal from the discharge.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBERS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF MARITIME CONCERNS

There were none.

IX. NEXT STEPS

Mr. Sanford stated that a Summit Summary will be emailed to all attendees who provided their address. Mr. Sanford stated that he feels there is value in these meetings and that we are all interconnected. He added that he appreciates those who gave their time to attend tonight's meeting.

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the public wished to comment about the boats in Hollywood North and South Lake. He commented that this area is used by all neighboring cities and there is a severe problem with anchorage and derelict vessels. He continued that all cities need to work together to rectify this issue.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Pompano Beach Power Squadron 2019 Summary

Here are some of the highlights of the 2019 calendar year.

- 10 vessel safety examiners completing 400 inspections. If equipment is missing, the squadron provides discount coupons for the boat owner
- Participation in the following community events: Pompano Beach Nautical Flea Market, Ft. Lauderdale Boat Show, Cert Safety Fest
- Taught 200 students in the America's Boating Class (nearly double the number of students in the past four years)
- Taught On-the-Water training to 17 students
- Placed in the top 10 squadrons at the National Power Squadron (of 350 squadrons) for America's Boating Class, Advanced grades and seminars
- Continuous work on updating advertising platforms to increase exposure.